

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04656 190938Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04656

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, TW
SUBJECT: SAFED AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 174513, (B) TAIPEI 04210, (C) TAIPEI
04176, (D) STATE 101230

1. ADCM MET WITH WANG MENG-HSIEN JULY 18. WANG OPENED MEETING WITH COMMENT THAT HE ASSUMED PURPOSE OF ADCM CALL WAS TO INFORM GROC THAT USG WAS TERMINATING PARTICIPATION IN SAFED AGREEMENT IMMEDIATELY NOTWITHSTANDING INTERNAL PROBLEMS ABRUPT TERMINATION WOULD CREATE FOR GROC. ADCM ASSURED WANG THAT USG UNDERSTANDS FULLY BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS TERMINATION WOULD CREATE FOR GROC. FOR THIS REASON, USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEFER TERMINATION UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1978, IF IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT GROC WOULD NOW BEGIN TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS TO HANDLE SAFED ACCOUNT.

2. WANG STATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM JCRR AND CEPD OF USG WILLINGNESS TO DEFER TERMINATION UNTIL END OF 1978. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE DOUBTED THAT GROC WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS SO QUICKLY. IN THIS EVENT, WOULD USG BE WILLING TO DEFER TERMINATION BEYOND END OF 1978? ADCM STATED THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT ANY COUNTER PROPOSAL GROC WISHED TO MAKE TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS ALREADY EXPLAINED TO GROC, USG IS NOT PREPARED TO

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ADHERE TO AGREEMENT UNTIL IT EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 1980.

3. JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (JCRR): PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA 2 OF REFTTEL (D), EMBASSY PROPOSED TO NOTIFY GROC INFORMALLY AT TIME OF KYLE'S DEPARTURE CALLS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE REPLACED AS U.S. COMMISSIONER AND CONFIRM INFORMAL NOTIFICATION BY THIRD PERSON NOTE AFTER KYLE'S DEPARTURE. KYLE'S

SUCCESSOR WOULD NOT BE DESIGNATED U.S. COMMISSIONER AND HE WOULD NOT THEREFORE ATTEND COMMISSION MEETINGS OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN JCRR ACTIVITIES EVEN THOUGH FORMAL TERMINATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT (AND JCRR AGREEMENT) WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL SIX MONTHS FROM DATE OF NOTE. HOWEVER, A COMPLICATING FACTOR HAS ENTERED PICTURE. IN OCTOBER 1978 JCRR WILL BE THIRTY YEARS OLD AND IN HONOR OF OCCASION JCRR IS PLANNING TO INVITE ALL FORMER U.S. COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN WEEK-LONG CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING EVENT. IN OCTOBER 1978 U.S. WILL STILL OFFICIALLY BE LINKED TO JCRR EVEN THOUGH THERE WILL BE NO U.S. COMMISSIONER AFTER KYLE DEPARTS. IT IS LIKELY THAT JCRR WILL REQUEST THAT A SUCCESSOR TO KYLE BE DESIGNATED IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN BECAUSE OF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF GETTING OVER THIS AWKWARD SITUATION WOULD BE TO DESIGNATE KYLE'S SUCCESSOR, MELVIN LEVINE, TO SERVE FOR THE REMAINING LIFE OF THE JCRR AGREEMENT, I.E., SIX MONTHS AFTER FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF OUR DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. UNGER

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